U.S. Secretary of State's India Visit

1229. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any achievement were made and decisions arrived at during the last two visits of the U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited India on 16-17 October 2001 and on 17-18 January 2002. These visits have strengthened bilateral relations between India and the United States, deepened mutual understanding on the global war against terrorism, enhanced India-U.S. cooperation on Afghanistan and enabled the two sides to discuss Pakistan's role and responsibility with regard to terrorism in India, including in the context of the terrorist attack on the Parliament in December 2001. During Secretary Powell's visit in October 2001, two sides signed a bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which is an important step in strengthening law enforcement cooperation between India and the United States.

Bringing of bodies of Indians working abroad

1230. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dead bodies of Indian nationals working abroad take unduly long time in reaching India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would instruct the Indian Missions abroad to take it upon itself the duty of reaching the body to the relatives in India without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b)